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Valley Star

Volume 47, Issue No 34 | Los Angeles Valley College | Van Nuys, California | April 6, 1995

News Notes

CSUN will have a representative on campus April 17 from 10 to 1 p.m. by appointment in the Transfer Center and on April 25 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Cafeteria on a drop-in basis.

CSUN will have a Minority Business Program representative on campus April 6 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on a drop-in basis in Monarch Square.

UCLA will have a representative on campus April 24 from 9 a.m. to noon and 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. by appointment and from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. on a drop-in basis in the Transfer Center.

Career Development Workshop Series presents "Interview Skills" on April 19 from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. in Campus Center 206.
Algebra competency testing will be held April 19 at 6 p.m. Campus Center 116. The test takes 50 minutes.

Summer School classes begin June 26 and end August 3. Appointments for continuing students begin May 1. Applications for new students will be accepted May 8. Telephone registration for continuing students starts May 15 and ends June 2. In-person registration for new and continuing students will be done by appointment only June 19 to June 23.

ASU and Trustee elections will be held April 24, 25 and 26.

Health Center offers free, anonymous HIV and TB testing on April 25, 26, and 27 from 9a.m. to 1 p.m. Financial Aid office reccomends students apply now for Fall '95 BOG Fee Waivers.

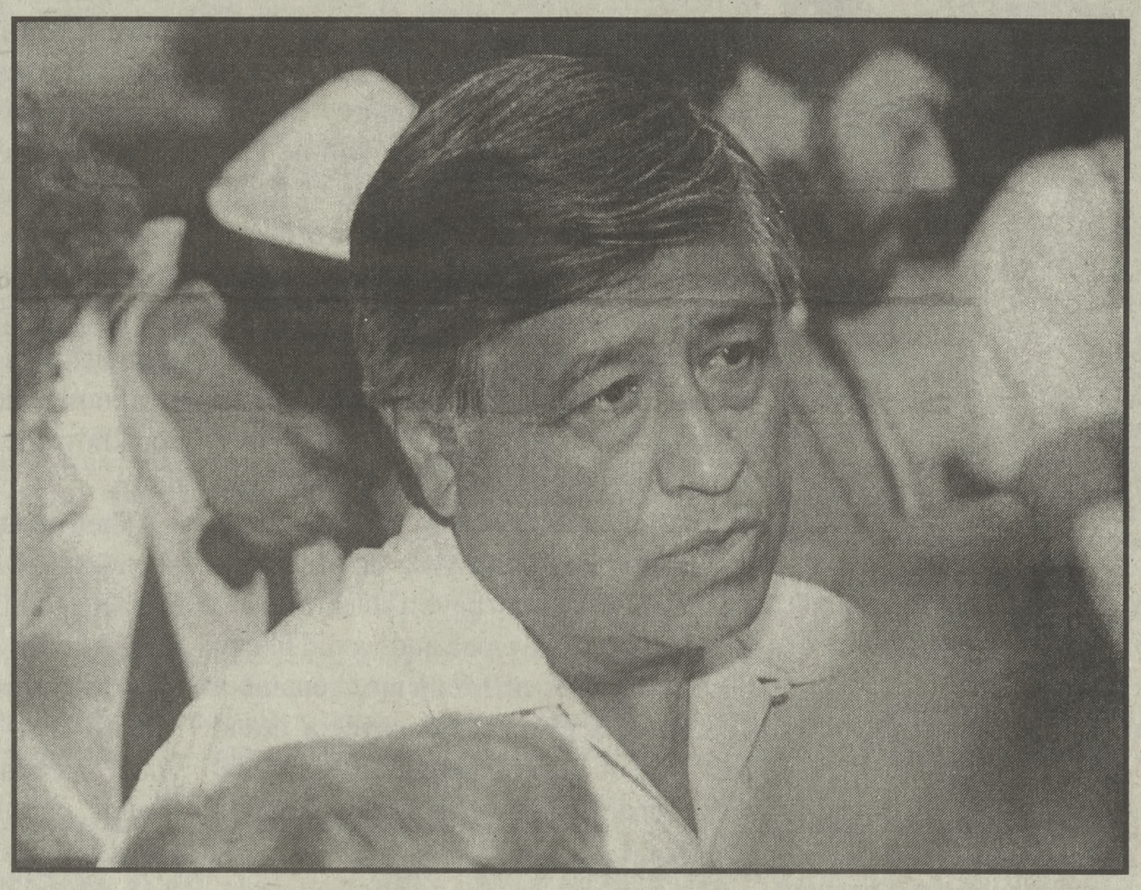
Financial Aid Ability to Benefit Test Schedule will be held on April 20 at 1:30 p.m. in Campus Center 116. No appointment is necessary. Bring a picture ID. The test takes an hour and a half.

ASU Secretary position open. Position requires good organizational skills and knowledge of word processors. Flexible 15-20 hours per week. Contact ASU President, Frank Cramblitt, at CC102 or extension 361.

IMS Filmex presents "The Scarlet Letter"starring Colleen Moore and Alan Hale on April 19 at 12:30 p.m.in Behavioral Science 101.

Tuesday Workshop Series presents "What Every Athlete Should Know" by Ann Gee on April 14 and on April 18 "Interpersonal Relations: Affiliation & Attraction" by Dr. Bruce Thomas from noon to 1 p.m. in Foreign Language 102.

Faculty President Election will be held through April 7. Candidates running are Jack Sterk, current Faculty President and Kelley Ross, philosophy instructor. This election is critical to issues concerning the college operations which affect students and staff.



VALLEY STAR FILE PHOTO
Cesar Chavez, now deceased, speaking to and answering questions for members of Hillel.

Cesar Chavez honored

By ED WEST
Valley Star Staff Writer

There were placards of his likeness and literature in Monarch Hall. In Monarch Square on March 29, a short speech was given by Maria E. Osorio, a representative of the United Farm Workers Union (UFW). She was well received and applauded, but the turnout of students to commemorate the death of Cesar Chavez was disappointing.

Osorio spoke of Chavez with love and reverence, extolling his accomplishments and likening this modern day Chicano to another hero of Spanish History, El Cid.

She spoke of Chavez's early years, relating how he and his family worked in the very fields that many Chicano's now labor in. "He was a leader who led by example," she said.

It was through Chavez's efforts that many of the deadly pesticides sprayed on food crops were banned by the government. These pesticides were the direct causes of the lung diseases and disorders so prevalent in farm workers, higher than any other industry in the United States.

It was higher than that of the coal miners breathing coal dust or steel workers breathing the toxic fumes of smelting iron ore. The children of farm workers are especially susceptible to lung related ailments. There is no other industry where workers receive more cuts, bruises, broken bones, amputated fingers, injuries to the feet and suffer excruciating back pains. There are no other workers who do more in the way of serving the needs of every American and receive the most minimal of wages for their labor.

The UFW has grown in numbers from the handful of loyal workers who rallied around Chavez, to an estimated total of 80,000 workers today and the numbers continue to grow. The total focus of the leaders of the union is now centered on recruitment.

New contracts with growers continue to be made. The UFW had just secured a contract to harvest the crops of the world's largest rose growers, in the Bear Creek area of California. A workforce of 1500 workers has been employed to pick and sort and ship them to florists all over the country.

The boycott on grapes is still in effect, but on a low key basis. While the insecticide the growers use on grapes is harmful to the workers, it does enhance the look and size of the grapes, so the growers continue to use it. Without this particular pesticide, the grapes would be smaller but just as flavorful and healthier to eat.

Working conditions for the farmworkers of America continue to improve. As their ranks grow, they will have a louder voice in the rulings of the departments of Agriculture and Labor. Contracts will be made that are fair and equitable to both growers and workers. The people who stoop in labor to feed our nation, are no less worthy of respect and praise than the loftiest person in our society.

The dreams of the few itinerant farm workers who protested unfair labor practices years ago, led by Chavez, are coming to fruition.

Counseling and Career Centers to be consolidated

By ED WEST
Valley Star Staff Writer

The Grand Central Station atmosphere that now pervades the Counseling Center will soon be a thing of the past. After being discussed for over a year, plans have been formalized to place all aspects of counseling in one facility, thereby putting an end to students having to scurry all over the campus seeking counseling services.

The Counseling Center will remain where it is in the Administration Building. However, some aspects of counseling, ie, Career Planning, Placement testing in English and Mathematics will be located in room 126 of the Administration Building. Barbara Goldberg, director of the Career/Transfer Center, is positive about this new program entitled, "Los Angeles Valley College Career/Transfer Center."

"This merging of all counseling services under one roof will make it easier for the students to get whatever help and assistance they need," Goldberg said.

The new facilities are expected to open by the end of the Spring semester.

35-45 teachers set to retire at end of Spring

By J. D. WOLVERTON
Valley Star Staff Writer

Faced with a severe budget shortfall in the next school year and the imminent retirement of more than three dozen faculty members, Valley is wrestling with the problem of how to replace them within its tightened fiscal constraints.

"We're trying to get a handle on who's retiring so we can start the process of replacing them," said Tom Oliver, dean of vocational education and occupational programs. "We'll be lucky to replace 10 to 15 for the Fall Semester. We can't replace the 35 to 40 faculty who are supposed to have retired by then."

"The process of replacing retired faculty is a shared governance decision," Oliver said, with faculty and administration working in tandem on it.

Once the college receives the paperwork from the retiring faculty member, the college has to submit an intent to fill form for the position to the Los Angeles Community College District, Oliver said. "When the District approves, then you can advertise to fill the job. That kicks in the hiring policy."

Under shared governance, a committee is formed to fill each individual position. Every academic discipline has a pool of committee members - such as for Business, Accounting, Speech and English, and each one of the committees has to be made up of specialists in the subject, Oliver said.

"My gut feeling is that we'll fill nine or ten positions by the start of the new semester in August," Oliver said. The Hiring Prioritization Committee, on which he serves, has selected 11 positions to be filled first.

"We're looking forward to hiring some new people," Oliver said. "But we're losing some valuable resources. It's going to be a tough void to replace some of these people, like Myron Mann, chairman of the Physics department, who's been there for 30 years and is retiring."

Professor Jack Sterk, who serves as chairman of the Hiring Prioritization Committee, said "We're going to replace 11 instructors in Biology, Chicano Studies, Chemistry, Economics, Nursing, Music, Physics, Speech, Communications, Broadcasting, Men's Physical Education and Basketball Coach, and a Librarian."

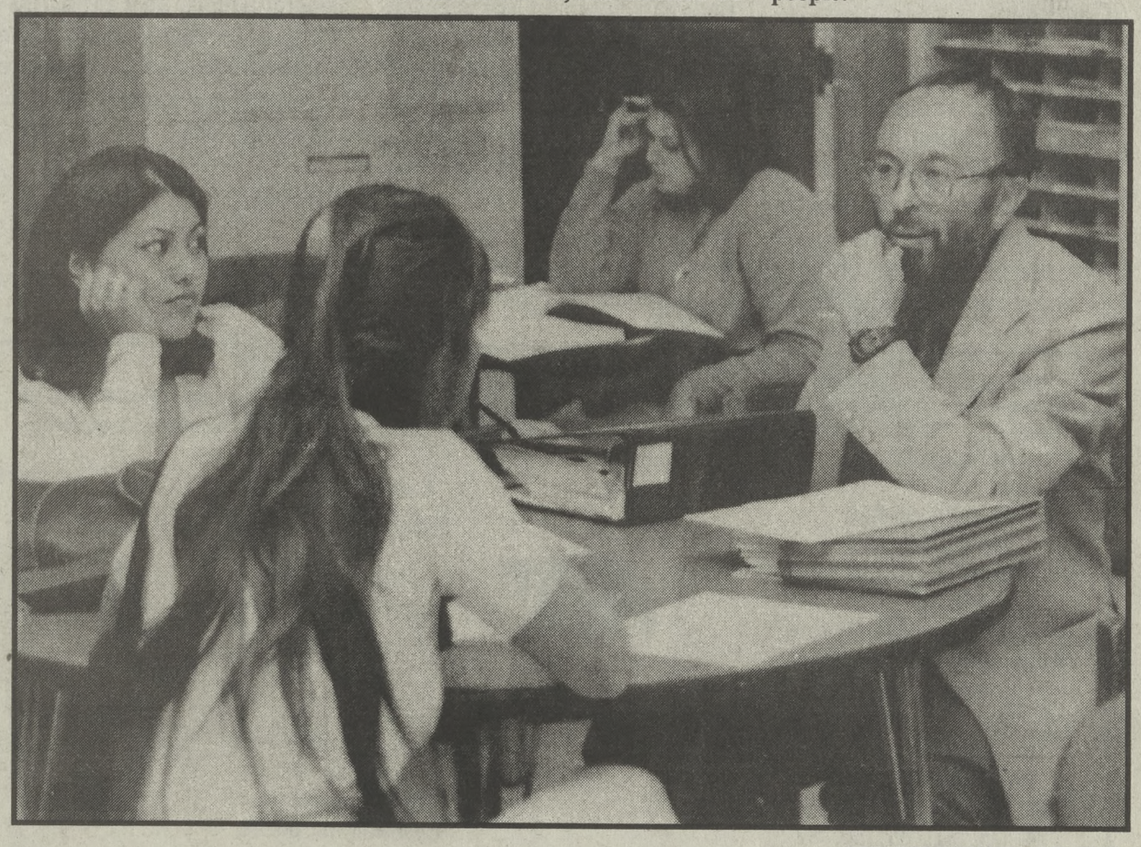
"We went through all the information and reached a consensus on filling these 11 positions," Sterk said. "Now it's up to the departments and the district."

Sterk said, "We're not anticipating any cuts in classes, with budget cuts, you're going to see more part-timers, rather than full-time faculty at the college."

One outcome of this trend is that part-time instructors, who are paid at an hourly rate, don't have to maintain office hours.

Faculty members have been offered an incentive to take their retirements at this time. Sterk said, "They're going to be given a 7 percent annuity, which is the equivalent of three and a half years of service. That was a negotiation between the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) and the District."

According to Sterk, "The AFT thought long-serving people should be rewarded and the District believes this is one way to downsize the curriculum and hire some new people."



DOROU BOGHOSIAN/VALLEY STAR
Career Counselor, Mike Saluzzi, discusses the future career plans of Pauline (left) and Linda.

IF WE'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO REFER TO OURSELVES AS AMERICANS, WHAT SHOULD WE BE CALLED, RESIDENTS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA?
CANADA
USA
MEXICO
WELCOME TO LAVC
COLUMBIA
Andrew A. Gerschler

'Political Correctness' lands in recycled garbage heap

By KIT PARAVENTI
Valley Star Staff Writer

As we sat studying a menu in which the only vaguely meat- free possibility was oatmeal (hold the bacon bits,) I reminded a friend of my vegetarianism. (The restaurant had been his idea.)

"Oh yes, I suppose this place isn't very politically correct," he said, with that snide, leering delivery in which the term is invariably uttered.

I slapped him.

Not hard. Since I'm a vegetarian for ethical, as well as health reasons, I observed what I consider Gandhi-esque restraint.

I think the term 'politically correct' should be deemed politically incorrect.

'Politically correct' is a phrase originally fastened to a whole series of what were once morally based individual decisions about the proper, inoffensive use of language. The onslaught of 'political correctness' sent a sad cavalcade of words - some blatantly and historically bigoted in nature, others victims of semantic evolution - marching into the gaping verbal landfills etched by new levels of sensitivity and awareness.

'Political correctness' became a catchphrase to be reckoned with in every political and social venue. Like one's fashion savvy at the Oscar's, it turned into something critical to public profile and popularity. It became powerful enough to indulge itself in nitpicking - in bristling with offense at even the slightest variation from the current, ever-changing, unwritten 'politically correct' manifesto.

Political Correctness became a trend.

Stand-up comics had a field day, littering their monologues with terms like 'follically challenged', (when referring to what were once known as bald people,) and 'Canine Americans' (when referring to what were once known as dogs.) Rush Limbaugh wielded the term like an axe, hacking, trivializing, and diminishing issues like the environmental crisis and sexual harassment.

The Republicans came into power, Affirmative Action was added to the Endangered species list (while the bald eagle was nearly taken off of it,) and vegetarianism became an even more persecuted and ridiculed subculture.

The term is laden with a kind of sly, wink-and-nudge connotation. A 'political' decision, when used outside the context of politics, implies a contrived gesture, a position adopted in order to put its decider in a favorable light. Like other trends, its nature ebbs and flows with the shifting tides of public opinion.

Political Correctness is as dead as a deserted, American-built, '78 Ford Pinto, rusting along the shoulder of the 405 freeway. It is dead because it no longer serves as a snazzy vehicle for its once-enthusiastic occupants.

The flocks of trend-followers who flirted briefly with vegetarianism, environmentalism, and other views that reflect sensitivity to the human condition, can take up pogs, rollerblading, Beavis and Butthead memorabilia, or other transient diversions.

In the meantime, those of us who have and will continue to exercise conscious consideration for the earth and its inhabitants, can get on with the business of side-stepping the 'politically correct' sneers, recycling our paper products, and munching our tofu burgers in peace.

Editorial

Voting could save student dollars

This editorial is for all of you Valley students, regardless of your race, color, political standing, age, whatever. The fees you are paying now in order to attend this Community College, will be going up, if not now, in the very near future.

If the budget is cut, there will be less qualified teachers on campus to teach you what you need to know in order to earn a decent living, in a profession that is desirable to you—either because of the large amount of money it will put in your pocket due to a reasonable amount of effort on your part, or because it is a profession that follows along the natural inclinations of your heart.

Perhaps you favor Art, or Music, or Acting. Perhaps you have a sincere desire to help your fellow man and would like to pursue a career of Medicine, become a doctor, or a chemist; discover a brand new way of helping people to overcome some terrible disease that is devastating the World.

The first step to take would be to educate yourself in the field you select. Perhaps you have heard the tale of how President Abrahm Lincoln self-educated himself back in 1850, while living in a log cabin. That may be and probably is true. Doing your homework with dilligence is always a good idea but this is 1995, the age of the Computers.

If you are a student with high ideals, high hopes, great ambition, and willing to work hard to attain your goal. You need to attend school. You are here now, so far so good!

But student fees may be going up in the future. If you are barely making ends meet now, will you still be able to, if the fees go up drastically? Don't just wait for it to happen—do whatever you can now, to keep the increase in tuition down to a minimum.

Get involved. There is an election coming up on April 11th. Have you heard about it? Are you registered to vote? Do you know who is running for Office? Do you know their views concerning education?

Their ideas on the subject are just a phone call away. Make it now and at least extract promises from them, so you will have a better idea of who to vote for. It's your future we're talking about here.

April 11 —next Tuesday— mark it on your calendar, talk it over with your friends, call the candidates and let them know how you feel. Make them commit themselves, then vote according to your own self-interests and your conscience.

Barbara Boxer is one of our Senators who is going to bat for us. She is not up for reelection at this time—just wanted you to know .

Amanda Susskind, however, is running for Office #1 -Board of Trustees L.A. Community Valley District, and has expressed a great interest in helping to keep the budget focused in the student's interest. Do your part. See you at the polls.

Proud to be American

By JOSE ISRAEL LEMUS
Valley Star Staff Writer

For the last two weeks I have been looking for "proper" words to write the next paragraph in this piece. I have, in thought, attempted to be polite. Come up with phrases like: "I present the following argument so the reader may re-examine the use of..." or "I would like to see a more adequate use of..."

But no, I would rather say it simply: Folks, the use of the word "America" as a name for the United States is WRONG. It is wrong because America is a continent, not a country.

America, the continent, extends from Point Barrow, the northernmost tip of Alaska to Puerto Williams, or Cabo de Hornos below Argentina, approximately the southernmost tips of the continent.

The United States (U.S.) lies between the borders of Canada in the north and Mexico in the south. That is it. The adjective American is also erroneously used. A reference to American people, indeed, applies to anybody from any country from Alaska to Argentina. You may also add anybody from islands around the continent, like Cuba, Haiti, Puerto Rico, Hawaii and others. They are all Americans.

To be sure though, the fundamental problem is the term America as used today in the U.S. is misleading.

A few days ago a friend in a class criticized me for using the term American in an article. I was referring to the United States.

"What do you mean by American people," she asked me. "What are you trying to say."

I immediately knew what she meant. Many students see themselves as Americans regardless of where they were born. Anyone born in Bolivia is as equally American as anyone born in Chicago.

The consequences are such that many US born students are not aware of this erroneous concept of America. They have grown up listening to expressions like, American people, American school, American presidents, American Revolution...etc. For them, anything outside the US is not American, regardless of where it comes from.

A fellow student asked me once if Cancun was part of America or of Mexico. I told her it was part of both.

"Why does the term continue to be used incorrectly," I wondered. Do you?

Ask your teacher.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I cannot tell you how pleased I am with today's publication of the Valley Star (March 30). The composition of the paper is done in an artful manner, the articles are timely and generally reflect a positive view of the college.

Most especially, I appreciate the creatively composed page featuring the Fall 1994 Dean's List, which is placed opposite the excellent article and picture of our college president, Tyree Wieder.

I congratulate you on your achievement as the Valley Star editor-in-chief. It is a publication which both student body and faculty alike can be rightfully proud.

Congratulations also to the faculty sponsor, Ms. Holtzman, and to the staff who each week bring to the readership a mirror of our world at Valley College.

Sincerely,

Samuel H. Mayo,
Dean Student Services

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✪ LETTERS ✪ LETTERS ✪ LETTERS ✪

The Valley Star will receive and, if possible, publish letters from its readers. The Star reserves the right to condense all letters for space considerations. Submitted letters should be limited to 350 words. Letters are subject to editing if they are obscene, libelous, or make racial, ethnic, religious, sexist, or sexually oriented denigrations. Letter must be signed and include student's ID number. Letters may be dropped at the Valley Star Bungalow 25, by Monday morning for the following Thursday.

Art Professor stands out from the rest

By MARCIA BRAGER
Valley Star Staff Writer

The office of Associate Professor of Art, Eugenia Sumnik-Dekovich has decorations pinned to the walls from her nine-year-old daughter, Victoria and her son Michael, age five. A collection of books on art and cultural anthropology spans her desk. Posters and cartoon strips with art and feminist themes abound. A gold plaque that stands out from the rest, "Eugenia, Terrific Professor, Friend, Mentor, Scholar and Individual, WE LOVE YOU, Your History of Women and Art Class, June 10, 1992."

Sumnik-Dekovich was concerned that women have not been included in traditional art history, so she did something about it. Sumnik-Dekovich developed the course entitled, the History of Women in Art, and shepherded it into Valley's curriculum.

Sumnik-Dekovich says, "the female nude was treated as an on object for male consumption. Nobody ever dealt with how women perceived these subjects." She poses questions like, "Were women important patrons of art production," and "How did the artworks reflect the social position of women?" The course is based on diversity, which she explains as promoting the awareness of different cultures. One "cannot look at the social position of any one individual or group of individuals without understanding the rest of society," says Sumnik-Dekovich

That there is a lack of documentation of women in art history does not mean that no women artist existed, only that they were not recognized for their accomplishments. In regard to the female historical deficiency, Sumnik-Dekovich mentions a movement of women historians that refer to "herstory" as opposed to "history," which according to Sumnik-Dekovich, "encapsulates it rather nicely." The History of Modern Art is another Art Department course that Sumnik-Dekovich is credited with planning and having added to the curriculum.

Professor of Art, Henry Klein, states that Sumnik-Dekovich brings a fresh perspective to teaching art history, teaching it from a historical viewpoint, including social and cultural components. He explains that traditionally, art history has been taught without the historical emphasis, and with more of a stylistic approach; from an artist's point of view.

Sumnik-Dekovich's interest in art history began when she helped her father, who was a cabinet maker, restore antiques. She saw that art history was an area that allowed her to pull together subjects that she was interested in, such as art, anthropology, the natural sciences and English literature.

Some of the things Sumnik-Dekovich likes best about teaching art history is that the subject matter is exciting and interesting from all aspects, the way that the objects were produced technically, the choice of subject and the arrangement of forms compositionally. Sumnik-Dekovich refers to a recent article she read in Time Magazine about some new Paleolithic cave paintings recently discovered in France, near Avignon. She reflects on how the artists' minds worked when they created their art and when others saw those creations. "When all is said and done, you still are left with this material thing that was made, directed by somebody, living either recently, or very long ago. And it's so fresh, so direct."

Sumnik-Dekovich specializes in the area of Oceania, the study of the art of the indigenous people of the Pacific Islands. As a graduate student at the University of California at Los Angeles, she minored in pre-Columbian art and modern art. She is also knowledgeable in African art. She did her undergraduate work at Oakland University and has also studied at Wayne State University in Detroit and the Catholic University of Lublin in Poland.

Sumnik-Dekovich regards teaching people about art as an accomplishment. She started teaching full-time at Valley in 1989. Since that time, she prides herself on having seen people who began with little or no interest in art or art history and end up "fired up" about it.

Sumnik-Dekovich thinks that shaping people's attitudes, outlooks and their sensitivity to cultural and aesthetic issues is important. She believes that the tendency for people to view accomplishments as a string of tangible things that can be left behind after death "is a narrow way to define 'accomplishments.'"

Sumnik-Dekovich loves what she does and counts on the flexibility of her job in managing her heavy schedule. On a typical day when she teaches a day course, she sets her alarm for 5 a.m. in order to get her 10-month-old son, Neil, and her other children up and ready in time to get to school and childcare.

ROD GOODMAN/VALLEY STAR
Art Professor, Eugenia Sumnik-Dekovitch, at the art museum.

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Baseball team continues to fight despite disappointment

By ROBERT BLECHL
Valley Star Staff Writer

"There's much to learn in adversity especially for younger people," said Chris Johnson, head coach of the men's baseball team. Johnson is referring to the team's last eight consecutive losses.

Despite these losses, the team is still charging ahead on a six day a week schedule playing three games a week and practicing on the others.

"For a lot of these guys, they played a high school season last year which was 20 games," said Johnson, "We're going on about game 70 here. We play in the winter also, from October to January. These games don't count but they are wear and tear on the guys."

The rainstorms back in Feb. have not helped the team either. The baseball field at Valley survived quite well but other schools' playing fields were affected, which altered the sequences of certain games.

"We played five games in six days because of re-schedules and we lost all five of those," said Johnson. "That was difficult. We have a very young team and they have never done that before." Only one other team besides Valley was put under that unexpected pressure.

"So some of these guys are running a marathon and they didn't understand it was a marathon," Johnson explained, "There is really no break from August. We get together when school starts. And then we go to May."

Johnson said that preparation is the key to having a successful season. He feels that his team is learning that. "The thing they are learning is that this is difficult," said Johnson, "This level of competition is completely different from high school. It's hard."

"You are going to get beat if you don't prepare well," continued Johnson, "and they are learning that right now."

Defensively, the team is playing up to par. The pitching is good but Johnson said they are not hitting very well. "Offensively, we are not able to score runs, and that is where we are really hurting," Johnson said.

In order to keep the team afloat, Johnson plans to hold individual meetings with each player. "We don't normally do this at this time of the year but I think it is important in relation to us having a very young team," explained Johnson.

"We are with these guys a lot, so I know for the most part what they are thinking but I want to hear it from them," Johnson added.

Johnson said his team is dealing with the fact that they had other expectations coming into this season than what is currently happening. "They are disappointed and they are down," he said, "Their expectations were not giant expectations but they were positive expectations."

Earlier in the season the team did possess some good qualities. "Some players did some things in the winter that it looked like they'd be able to do in the spring," said Johnson, "What has happened is they haven't done them in the spring."

Besides the massive pressure of a very long and intense season, Johnson points out another factor that comes into play. "This is a two year eligibility. They have to be here for two years," he said, "so this year they might be dealing with inexperience and the second year they are dealing with what is called 'sophomore pressure'."

Johnson explained that "sophomore pressure" means that the players are trying to do enough to show a four year school that they are qualified to play for them.

As a coach, Johnson said there is a judgement to make.

Describing the team's position this season, he added, "We are not in a good place but we're not done, by any stretch of the imagination."

ROD GOODMAN/VALLEY STAR
The Monarch baseball team scurries to catch a hit in a game against El Camino Real College.

Upcoming Sports Calendar

4/6 Men's Baseball vs. Hancock 2:30 p.m.
4/7 Men's and Women's Swimming vs. COC 2:30 p.m. Women's Softball at Hancock 3:30 p.m.
4/8-9 Women's Softball at Ventura Tournament TBA
4/8 Men's Baseball vs. Mission 1 p.m.
4/12-13 Men's Baseball at Cero Cosa Tournament TBA
4/18 Men's Baseball at Pierce 2:30 p.m.
4/19 Men's and Women's Swimming vs. Fullerton 2:30 p.m. Women's Softball vs. Cuesta 3:30 p.m.
4/20 Men's Baseball vs. Bakersfield 2:30 p.m.
4/21 Men's and Women's Swimming at Pierce 2:30 p.m.

The Humanist Association of LA meets the second Sunday of the month at 10:30AM for socializing and discussion.

TIME: Next Meeting; Sunday April 9th - 10:30AM
Subject: Humanist Heroines: Women Pioneers of Free Thought, by Queen Silver, Third generation free thinker and recipient of many awards for dedication to humanism and the free thought movement

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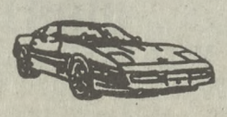
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